

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 8. This sheet, which includes Fig. 8, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 8.

Attachment: 1 Replacement Sheet

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 29-60 and 62-66 are pending. Claims 1-28 were canceled previously. Claim 61 is canceled by the present Amendment. Claims 29, 31, 32, 44, 45, 49, 53, 58, 59, 62, 63, and 65 are amended. Support for the amendments to Claims 44, 45, and 62 is self-evident. Support for Claims 29, 31, 32, 49, 53, 58, 59, 63, and 65 can be found in Fig. 4, for example. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to as not showing all of the features recited in dependent Claim 58. Claims 29-48 and 58-64 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Krone et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. 2002/0170723, herein “Krone”). Claims 49-57 and 65-66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Krone in view of Franet et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. 2003/0024228, herein “Franet”).

Regarding the objection to the drawings as not showing all of the features recited in dependent Claim 58, a replacement Fig. 8 is submitted herewith including reference number (15c) identifying an example of the respective articulation recited in dependent Claim 58. As discussed in numbered paragraph [0065] of the published application, Fig. 8 depicts one example of the rear wheels (15b) translationally moved in a direction transverse to the direction of forward travel of the carrying vehicle. In Fig. 8, the rear wheels (15b) are in an extended position. In contrast, in Figs. 6 and 7, the rear wheels (15b) are translationally moved inward. The specification is amended to include a reference to the newly added reference number (15c) included in replacement Fig. 8. As newly added Fig. 8 merely includes a new reference number, Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is added. Applicants further respectfully submit that all of the features recited in dependent Claim 58 are shown in the figures, and the objection to the drawings is overcome.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 29-48 and 58-64 as anticipated by Krone and the rejection of Claims 49-57 and 65-66 as obvious over Krone in view of Franet, those rejections are respectfully traversed by the present response.

The present application is a national stage of PCT/FR03/00801, filed on March 13, 2003. The present application claims foreign priority to French Patent Application No. 02/03893, filed on March 21, 2002. An English translation of a copy of the certified priority document along with a statement signed by the translator indicating that the translation is accurate is submitted herewith. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the foreign priority date, March 21, 2002, has been perfected. Applicants respectfully submit that the French priority document fully supports the rejected claims.

Krone was filed in the United States Patent and Trademark Office on May 17, 2002. Krone was published on November 21, 2002. As the March 21, 2002, priority date is before the United States filing date and the publication date of Krone, Applicants respectfully submit that Krone is removed as a reference against the present application.

Franet was filed on July 31, 2002 and was published on February 6, 2003. As the filing date and publication date of Franet are after the priority date of the present application, Applicants respectfully submit that Franet is removed as a reference against the present application.

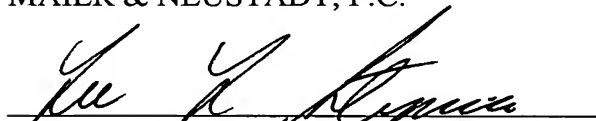
As Krone and Franet are removed as references against the pending claims, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claims 29-48 and 58-64 as anticipated by Krone and the rejection of Claims 49-57 and 65-66 as obvious over Krone in view of Franet are overcome.

Should Examiner Kovacs deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, he is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.

Applicants respectfully note that the United States Patent and Trademark Office has not acknowledged receipt of the Request for Foreign Priority filed with the present application. A copy of the Request for Foreign Priority printed from the United States Patent and Trademark Office website along with a copy of the application data sheet listing the foreign priority information related to French Patent Application No. 02/03893 are submitted herewith. Applicants respectfully request that the United States Patent and Trademark Office update the foreign priority information listed in the file of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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